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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Fiftieth session
Item 12 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH WHICH THE SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN OR MAY BE CONCERNED:

REVIEW OF ISSUES NOT PREVIOUSLY THE SUBJECT OF STUDIES BUT WHICH THE SUB-COMMISSION HAD DECIDED TO EXAMINE:

TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Written statement submitted by North-South XXI, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[11 July 1998]

1. The major Western media are continually reminding us of terrorist acts for which responsibility is borne by groups coming from the States of the South; they give maximum coverage to individual acts committed in a particular context (for example, in the territories occupied by Israel).

2. On the other hand, silence surrounds the global terrorism which the nuclear Powers exercise over all peoples. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons merely ensures the preservation of a nuclear oligarchy, placing under surveillance States that wish to use nuclear power for their economic development and are suspected of wanting to acquire nuclear weapons, although in international law there is no general provision making nuclear disarmament or non-armament mandatory.

3. The recent nuclear tests in Asia show that nuclear terrorism can cease only through the general abolition of nuclear weapons. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has good reason to denounce the nuclear threat, taking its stand on the opinion delivered on the subject by the International Court of Justice; to renew the call for the preparation and signature of a convention on nuclear weapons, banning and eliminating all nuclear weapons according to a precise timetable; and to recommend the redistribution of the military appropriations concerned so as to contribute to the realization of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, which were the official goals of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development.